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The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CHARLESTON

THURSDAY | 12.4.08

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CAMPUS | STUDENT GOVERNMENT



ROBBIE WROBLEWSKI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Students walk through the main corridor of Booth Library Wednesday evening during regular hours. Research is still being conducted about whether or not to extend the hours of the library for students who study well into the night.

Committee needs positive input

Booth Library hours extension research still being conducted

By HEATHER HOLM

Student Government Editor

Extending library hours at Eastern is still in the works.

The Academic Affairs Committee from Student Senate went to Faculty Senate and the Library

Advisory Board at first to get their input, said Chris Kromphardt, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

"The Library Advisory Board could give us their professional input and these were two important groups to talk to in the beginning," he said.

They also talked to Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, who told them the best way to go about polling students.

"He told us what to do and what not to do," Kromphardt said.

The Academic Affairs Committee also talked to the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council.

"We came up with a big list and those two were the first two student organizations that we talked to," Kromphardt said.

They are also going to speak with Black Student Union this

coming Monday.

Caridad Brito, a professor in the psychology department, helped the Academic Affairs Committee put together an e-mail survey for library hours.

"She helped us develop an online survey that will gauge the students' opinions," Kromphardt said. "We are getting the issues out there."

» SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 5

CAMPUS | EVENT

Time will tell if United Nations is top priority

Speaker believes Obama will work better with UN than President Bush

By STEPHEN DI BENEDETTO

News Editor

Political science professor, Kent Kille thinks relations between the United States and the United Nations will change when President-elect Barack Obama takes control of the White House.

He said the UN has debated President George W. Bush's unilateral mentality with foreign affairs.

He added many UN officials view the Bush Administration's foreign policies as illegitimate.

"The UN is hopeful," Kille said about Obama making relations with the UN a key priority during his presidency.

Kille lectured to students about how the Obama Administration and the UN will interact Wednesday night in the Lumpkin Hall Auditorium.

Students filled nearly every seat in the auditorium for the lecture.



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Professor Kent Kille from the College of Wooster presents his lecture entitled, "The Role of the United Nations During the Obama Presidency," at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Lumpkin Auditorium. Kille spoke to a full room of mostly students about the reception of Barack Obama's election as president as well as the general structure of the United Nations.

UNIVERSITY | COURSES

Language requirement's fate to be decided today

Overturning decision would mean campus requirement remains at two courses

By JOE ASTROUSKI

Administration Reporter

The Council on Academic Affairs will decide the fate of proposed changes to Eastern's foreign language requirement at its meeting today.

Last spring, CAA voted to increase the number of foreign language courses students must take to graduate.

The requirement increased the number of semesters from two to three.

After CAA's approval, President Bill Perry and Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, told CAA to review the requirement further.

In response, CAA formed a foreign language ad-hoc committee this fall.

The committee determined the original decision should be rescinded.

"We will be voting on a motion to rescind last April's vote to increase the foreign language requirement," said CAA chair Kathleen Bower.

In an e-mail circulated last week, some CAA members said they were unsure what rescinding an already-passed decision would mean.

Bower said if CAA votes to rescind its earlier decision, the foreign language requirement would remain unchanged.

"(Rescinding the decision) means that the foreign language requirement for students at EIU would remain at two courses," Bower said.

The foreign language subcommittee also recommended a new motion for CAA to approve, if the April decision is overturned.

This motion calls for each academic program to consider whether it needs changes in its foreign language or cultural awareness requirements.

Les Hyder, who chaired the foreign language subcommittee, said CAA members and guests would have a chance to speak about the proposed decision during the meeting.

"There will be a chance for guests who want to speak to do so," Hyder said. "After everyone who has comments to make has had a chance to do so, we will take a vote."

The meeting begins at 2 p.m. in Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

Joe Astrouski can be reached at 581-7942 or at jmastrouski@eiu.edu.

» SEE UN, PAGE 5

STUDENT SENATE | MEETING

Senate tables UB allocations

By HEATHER HOLM

Student Government Editor

University Board presented five allocations at the Student Senate meeting last night.

All the allocations have been passed through Apportionment Board unanimously.

UB's Special Events asked Student Senate for \$4,500 for Up All Night: Blue Invasion X-Treme Sports. This event will take place on Jan. 14.

UB's Homecoming asked for \$2,350 because of the 2008 homecoming deficit, the 2009 homecoming spring retreat and planning for next year.

UB's Mainstage asked for \$10,460 for "Pantherstock," "So You Think You Can Rap" and coffee-house performers/open mic night events.

UB's Comedy asked for \$4,500 for comedian Aries Spears to come to campus.

And UB's Productions asked for \$5,235 to help certain Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus put on events by fixing or buying equipment and training a staff to work on the equipment.

"Some of the equipment is old and outdated and constantly has to be upgraded and maintained," said Ceci Brinker, director of Student Life.

Student Senate tabled all the allocations for next week's meeting.

Student Senate member Drew Griffin asked why wait to pass the UB's Productions demands when Student Senate could pass it now.

"It could hit the ground running at the beginning of the next semester," he said.

Ryan Kerch said the reason that UB is asking for all these allocations is because they got the bulk of budget cuts from AB last year.

"Apportionment Board determined the budget for fee-funded groups last year and had to cut mon-



ERIN MATHENY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Carolyn Dundo, a Center for Academic Technology Support graduate assistant, gave a presentation on the Turning Point system to the Student Senate during their meeting on Wednesday night in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Turning Point is used in WebCT-linked classes for in-class presentations and uses a remote to answer questions and provide feedback.

ey and University Board took most of the cuts," Kerch said.

Eric Wilber, student executive vice president, said AB is based on flat funding, which means it has to have the same amount of money from year to year.

Another request to have the money from the Student Government Retreat with Black Student Union, Student Life Office, LASO and University Board was tabled 12-6-1 at the meeting.

The total cost for the retreat was \$552 and Student Government's portion of the cost is \$110.52.

If this failed, Brinker would have to foot the bill.

"If we wait until everyone is 100 percent comfortable with everything

for something like this, we would never get anything done," said Student Body President Levi Bulgar.

Travel and accommodations for sending Bulgar and Student Senate member Bradley Saribekian to an Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee Conference on Saturday and Sunday at DeVry University in Tinley Park passed at the meeting. It was voted on as emergency legislature. The total cost was for \$454 for lodging and travel costs.

A line item transfer for \$300 from Student Government payroll to copy services was tabled at the meeting as well. This also passed through AB unanimously.

A resolution for a Continuing

Education Fee passed along with one to have the findings of the University Development and Recycling Committees Fire Extinguisher and Safety Walk released passed as well.

The additional allocation for staff payroll for Laurel Fuqua at the amount of \$2,671 along with a University Board marketing request for \$3,000 passed at Student Senate last night. These were tabled from last week and passed through AB already.

Also at the meeting, Carolyn Dundo, a graduate assistant for the CATS department, gave a presentation on Turning Point.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Jazz combos in concert today

Eastern's three jazz combos will perform at 7:30 p.m. today in Room 1360 of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The concert will feature jazz compositions by Wayne Shorter, Clifford Brown and Horace Silver along with new compositions and arrangements by Eastern students.

There is no charge for admission.

Prizes for basketball game attendance

The second installment of "Pack the Place," the residence hall attendance competition, will take place today at the men's basketball game against Tennessee State in Lantz Arena.

Residents who attend the basketball game and check in at the designated table will receive a free Eastern T-shirt and an athletic bag.

They will also be entered in a halftime drawing for an iPod.

The hall with the highest percentage of its residents in attendance will win a free pizza party for participating residents.

If the percentage of students competing is not significant, participants will receive their own pizza.

Check-in for the competition will start at 7:15 p.m. at the student entrance to the basketball court.

Holiday concert in Doudna Friday

Chamber groups to large ensembles will perform at the Instrumental Division Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Music, from genres such as jazz and classical, will include "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Silent Night," "Horns A'Caroling" and more.

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for senior citizens and Eastern employees and \$12 for general admission. For reservations, contact Doudna Patron Services at doudnatix@eiu.edu or at 581-3110, or visit the Doudna Box Office open 2-6 p.m. weekdays.

—Compiled by Associate News Editor Matt Hopf

BLOTTER

Joshua Hawkins, 19, of Brookfield, was charged with illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor and resisting/obstructing a peace officer after a 12:10 p.m. Tuesday arrest in Carman Hall, said the University Police Department.

An Eastern student reported receiving harassing telephone communication from another student on Tuesday, police said.

COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, OR EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our Editor in Chief, Kristina Peters, via: Phone | 581-7936, E-mail | DENeic@gmail.com Office visit | 1811 Buzzard Hall

CAMPUS | EVENT

Comedian combines music, comedy in act

University Board books Johnny Walker

By JESSICA LEGGIN

Activities Editor

Comedian Johnny Walker has been invited by the University Board to entertain students with a mix of music and stand up comedy at 9 p.m. today at 7th Street Underground in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Walker said he is excited about coming to campus to entertain students with his comedic humor.

"This is close to being an athlete," he said. "I get excited but nervous at times. A little nervousness is always good cause it gets you excited cause you feel like it is something at stake."

Walker said he has been doing comedy for the last six years and has appeared on shows such as "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," BET's "Hell Date," the Sci-Fi show "Scare Tactics" and the reality show "Boys Behaving Badly."

Walker has been on a four-month college tour and has done a total of 80 shows on college campuses.

"Eastern is the 80th school I have

done this far," he said. "It is sort of exciting to be almost done with the tour, but it's cool to be able to do so many shows."

Walker said while he is on the road, he has to make rules for himself.

"I have to find a way to exercise everyday and there is a no-fast-food rule and no hard liquor," he said. "It takes a lot of energy to do an hour show every night, so it is worth the effort to find a way to be healthy."

Walker said he always loved performing on stage.

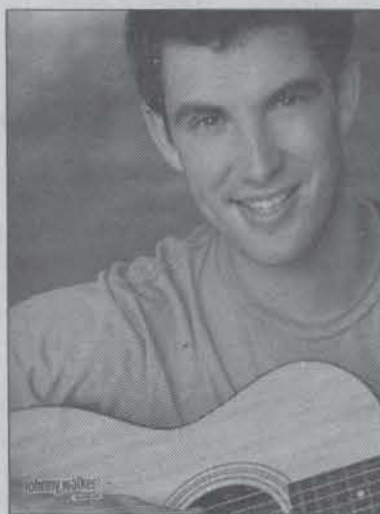
When Walker was at Yale University, double majoring in political science and history, he was a part of an a cappella group called the "Whiffenpoofs."

"I liked being on stage but wanted to do more," he said.

Walker said when he was in his senior year of college, he decided to make a bold step and try stand-up comedy.

"I was wondering what can be the most scariest, most impossible thing I could do in my life, and comedy seemed to make sense to me," he said. "I never thought I could make it a career."

Matt Caponera, the comedy chair for UB, said they decided to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Johnny Walker will appear at 9 p.m. today in the 7th Street Underground of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

bring Walker to campus when they saw him at the National Association for Campus Activities Convention.

"He kind of did a half an hour set and everyone was going nuts," said the junior corporate communications major.

Caponera said Walker is unique with his style because he plays music on his guitar while doing his stand-up.

"He appeals to college humor," he said. "He is a good fit for Eastern because his comedy is based on situations college students would get themselves into."

Caponera said he could not wait to hear some of Walker's funny songs that usually make fun of products such as beer.

"He makes fun of the beer 'Natural Light' and calls it 'Natty Ice,' and sings how bad of a beer it is," he said. "It is a well-known beer that is known for not being good."

Walker said, when it comes to comedy, he usually talks about culture, college issues, politics and underage drinking.

"I talk about culture with YouTube and MTV, and then I'll talk about things that are college issues such as the SAT and standardized test," he said.

Walker said students should come out to the comedy show because it will be a night they will not forget.

"You can laugh and have a good time for free," he said. "If they could think of anything better in Charleston that night, they should do it, but I don't think there is," he said.

Jessica Leggin can be reached at 581-7942 or at jmlleggin@eiu.edu.

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HILLARY'S HUSBAND...

Kansas State U. — It is said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. No surprise, then, that President-elect Barack Obama picked Hillary Clinton to be his secretary of state.

Actually, on paper, Hillary is very qualified to head up the State Department. Her experiences as the first lady and as a senator allowed her to travel and meet with heads of state. She is smart on policy, and perhaps most important of all, she is well-respected in most parts of the world. In the real world, however, Hillary is burdened by the curse and blessing of her husband, Bill. On one hand, Hillary would not be where she is today if she hadn't married a future president. On the other, Bill appears to still carry the lack of restraint that led to his impeachment.

For example, compare the presidential campaigns of Obama and Clinton. Obama's campaign was airtight; if there was internal conflict, we certainly didn't hear about it. Some reporters even nicknamed him Barack "NoDrama."

Clinton's campaign, by contrast, had more leaks than an old faucet. The Clinton camp might as well have invited the New York Times every time a senior adviser was fired. Often, these snippets of info took the form of a Hillary aid criticizing Bill for being reckless and uncontrollable.

Why should we expect Clinton's gig as Secretary of State to be any different? Foreign officials need to know what they hear from the State Department is the same as what they would hear from President Obama himself. There is no room for any political messes in foreign policy.

Hillary and Bill are usually viewed as one political entity — and not without reason. So by default, the world will view anything that Bill says as what Hillary believes. If Bill says anything controversial at one of his many speaking engagements, it will undermine the country in the same way as if the secretary herself had said it.

Kansas State Collegian

EDITORIAL POLICY

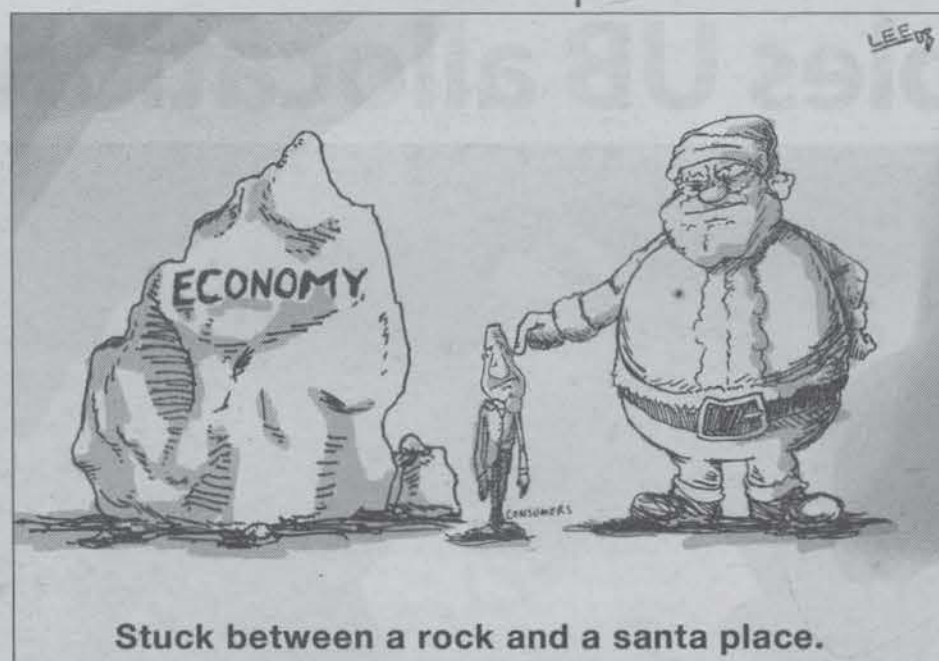
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Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words. Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall. Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.

Drawn from the News | Chris Lee



Stuck between a rock and a santa place.

STAFF EDITORIAL

End this now, don't change

The foreign language requirement has gone back and forth between the ad-hoc committee, Faculty Senate, Student Senate and the Council on Academic Affairs. CAA is voting today on the foreign language requirements.

This discussion must end now. The foreign language requirement for students to graduate should be kept at the minimum. If it is changed, Eastern students would have to spend more time and money on classes they don't necessarily need.

The ad hoc committee decided against changing the requirements, fearing increased graduation requirements would hurt enrollment.

The requirement should stay just as it is and not increase or become the discretion of each department. The processes being considered makes enrollment and class scheduling more complicated than needed.

Increasing foreign language hours would compromise other potential classes students may need to take for accompanying graduation requirements and put students in a bind to keep total hours at or close to 120.

In November, the CAA's foreign language ad hoc committee issued a report calling on CAA to rescind its earlier decision, which would raise the required number of foreign language semesters from two to three.

"We did not want to establish a precedent that we, as a matter of procedure, would second-guess ourselves on matters of policy that had been voted on," said Les Hyder, chair of the ad hoc committee, about how the decision was reached.

Hyder said the committee decided to reconsider the policy, since both Provost Blair Lord and President Bill Perry had expressed concerns about

OUR VIEW

- **Situation:** Eastern requires students to take two semesters of a foreign language or have completed two years of one in high school.
- **Stance:** The Council on Academic Affairs should vote to keep the requirement as it is and not increase or otherwise alter the requirement.

the change.

"We felt that the provost and the president raised some valid concerns," Hyder said. "We appreciated the spirit in which they responded."

Hyder said the committee first debated reconsidering a policy that CAA had already approved.

"Our gut feeling... unanimously... was that it's going to have an adverse effect on enrollment," Hyder said. "We cannot afford to have fewer students... not in this economic climate and this (level of) state support."

Senate member Andrew White said many of his students opposed the change, especially transfer students who said the change might have stopped their move to Eastern.

Hyder said the committee also wants CAA to encourage departments to set their own foreign language requirements to meet students' needs.

"This is not something that has to take two years," Hyder said. "If departments don't know what the needs of their students are, then it's about time they start looking at that."

Students should not have to spend extra money and time on courses that they already took in high school. Also, changing the requirements could detract prospective students, including transfer students. Therefore, each department should not set their own requirements.

Keep campus weapons ban

Having armed students on campus would not be a good idea. Most of us already get in enough trouble for shooting off our mouths or driving two-ton automobiles into other cars, buildings or pedestrians.

According to MSNBC.com, at least 11 colleges and universities already allow students to carry weapons, which is banned in 30 states. Illinois is one of those states, and a state that prohibits concealed weapons anywhere in the general public. But national movements are spawning from student organizations on campuses across the country called Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

"In Utah, all nine universities allow concealed carry on campus," said Eric Stein, president of the Kansas University SCCC group. "Colorado State and a community college in Virginia allow concealed carry. There are a combined 60 semesters on those campuses without an increase in gun violence or negligent shootings."

While campus shootings such as the Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University tragedies are the main line of reasoning for having weapons, violence should not be solved with more violence.

"Banning is a real extreme thing, it is an easy way out. It is 'feel good' type of solution that doesn't address what real problems are. Banning guns is a lazy way to do it," said Matt Checketts, a

OUR VIEW

- **Situation:** All but 11 U.S. colleges and universities have concealed weapons bans.
- **Stance:** Eastern needs to uphold its weapons ban and focus on keeping harmful students out.

student senator at the University of Utah, to *The Associated Press* in 1999 when his university was supporting a proposed ban on concealed weapons.

Simply put, we are students enrolled in an institution for higher education. We're paying to be here to learn and the university guarantees our safety. That's why we have an outrageously long student conduct code. Each campus has judicial boards and campus police for a reason; so let's let them do their jobs.

What happened at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois are inconceivable disasters that would have resulted badly whether or not other students had guns. Those types of catastrophes don't happen every day, and no matter how many people have guns, unneeded death will occur in any similar future events.

We have enough to think about as students, so let's just allow the office of Judicial Affairs to weed out harmful students and go about our college days wearing pajama pants and short shorts that don't get weighed down by heavy metal.



DYLAN POLK

One for
the shut-ins

Wow, these last three months have flown by.

It seems like just yesterday, I'd loaded my truck down and made the two-hour drive from Springfield to settle back into Charleston.

A few columns later, here I sit in my living room, safe from the miserable December rain outside.

My sinuses are congested and my head feels like a balloon.

Even though I feel absolutely miserable, I can't help but think of the amazing events I've experienced this semester.

I personally feel like I've grown so much since my freshman year, and even more so in my writing. Since then, I've faced numerous challenges I gradually overcame with a new appreciation for what each obstacle had taught me.

The night staff has always taken advantage of the TV to keep on issues that would appear in the next day's issue. When Kansas took on Memphis in the NCAA men's basketball finals, for example, the sports desk was glued to the TV ready to place the subsequent story on the Jayhawks' miracle overtime win.

Such could be said on that warm November night when practically the entire staff of the paper turned to CNN waiting for the results of the presidential election.

I remember sitting in *The DEN* newsroom designing sports and, every now and then, turning back to the TV to watch history unfold.

When the results were finally announced, I immediately thought to myself, "I am going to remember this for the rest of my life."

Barack Obama's election served as the ultimate reminder that anyone can live down the biggest mistakes of one's past. Slavery was abolished in America only 140 years ago. Equal rights were realized in 1964. It's amazing how relatively quickly a nation's mindset can change sides. Through Obama's election, I learned even I can turn a bad decision into a valuable lesson.

This semester has been near-perfect for me. I've experienced so much in the past few months. I've seen history unfold, I've grown in my field of practice, and to cap off the semester, my sister will be getting married right as the semester ends.

How awesome is that?

It's not like I'm leaving my experiences behind once finals are over, however. Though I know some of my friends won't be around in spring, I'm assured I can take my experiences with me and through them, create new ones I can treat the same way.

I know there are some students who behave like shut-ins, never leaving the confines of their rooms and experiencing this town for what it really is. In this, my last column of the semester, I leave you this last bit of advice: Go out and get to know Eastern — and to a greater extent, Charleston — for what it really is. Keep an objective mind, and even if it doesn't go well, take those experiences with you and learn from them.

Dylan Polk is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

» UN

FROM PAGE 1

Kille, who teaches at the College of Wooster in Ohio, said Obama made no mention of the UN on his campaign Web site; however, through statements during the campaign, Obama said the United States should rededicate themselves in restoring UN relations.

Kille showed students a 2008 Presidential Questionnaire by the United Nations Association of the United States.

Obama answered the questionnaire and said the United States must play a leading role with the UN.

"Obama did generally provide supportive comments about the UN when campaigning," Kille said.

He said Obama's campaign slogan of change hinted at multilateral and international support.

Kille even saw an interest in foreigners when traveling the world during the campaigns.

"People around the world had a vested interest in the American election," he said.

He said the Obama Administration could work with the UN on a bevy of issues such as global poverty, nuclear proliferation and global warming.

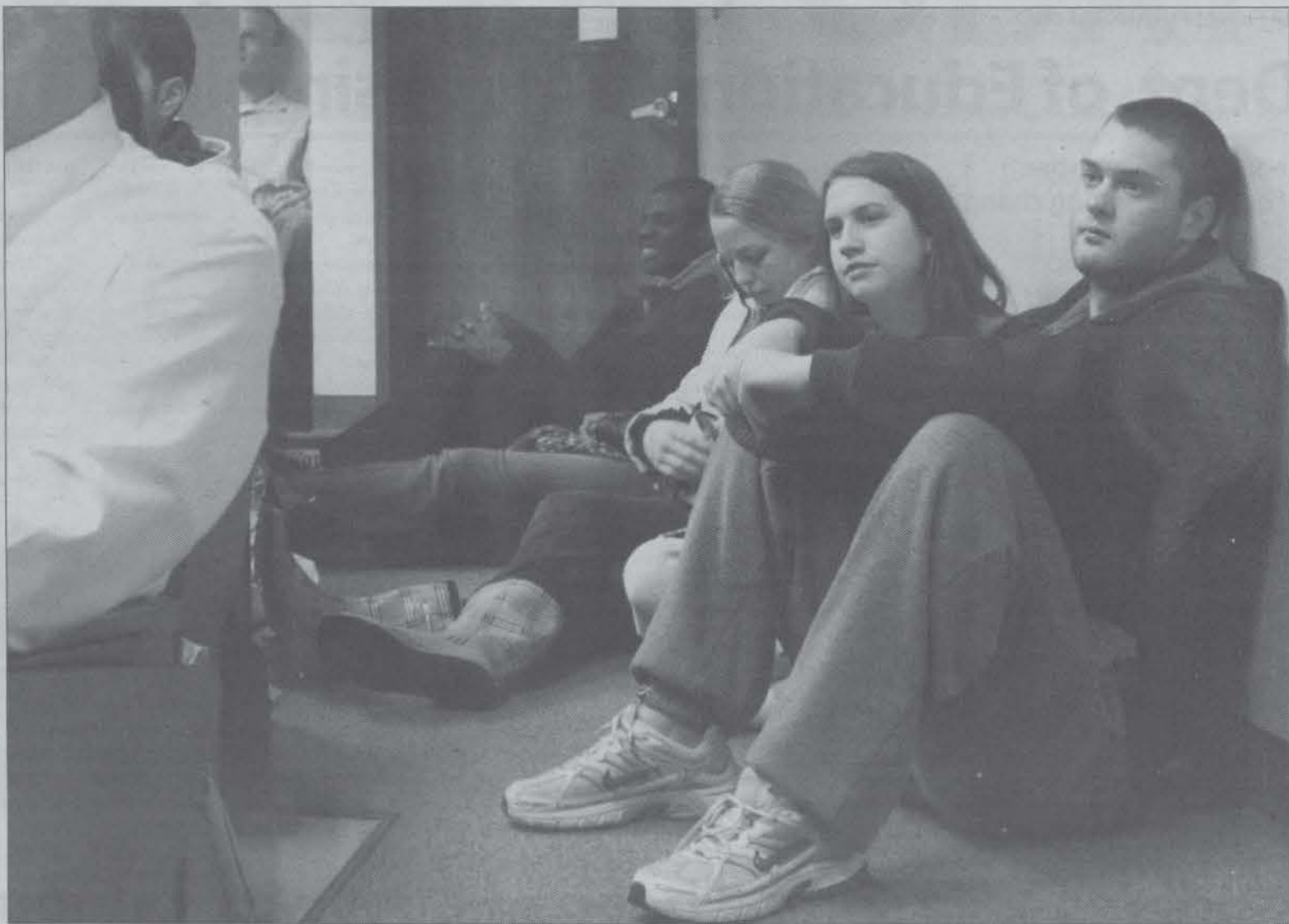
Kille said the United States could be more involved with the UN's Human Rights Council when Obama takes power.

When Bush appointed John Bolton as U.S. ambassador to the UN, Kille said the move reflected Bush's mentality toward the UN.

Bolton served as ambassador from 2005 to 2006.

Kille said, as ambassador, Bolton was abrasive and staunchly defended Bush's unilateral stance.

When Obama announced Susan Rice would be his U.S. ambassador to the UN, the UN



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

After finding floor seats, students get settled in and listen to a lecture on "The Role of the United Nations During the Obama Presidency" presented by Professor Kent Kille from the College of Wooster at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Lumpkin Auditorium.

greeted the appointment favorably, Kille said.

"It's seen as a strong, positive message to the UN," he said.

Although Rice has to be approved by the U.S. Senate, Kille said Rice would have a cabinet rank in the Obama Administration.

He said she would report directly to Obama.

Rice was a top foreign adviser on Obama's campaign and was the Assistant Secretary of State for

African Affairs under President Bill Clinton.

Kille said the United Nations Association of the United States viewed the appointment as a positive step to improved relations between the United States and the UN.

Kille said current UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon secretly hoped Obama would win the election, according to off the record reports from UN officials. The

UN secretary general is the chief administrative officer of the UN.

Moon wants to work with the United States about environmental issues after Obama is inaugurated, Kille said.

He said Moon would face reelection for the secretary general position when Obama faces reelection in 2012.

Moon has to be careful to build relations with the United States, a global leader, during Obama's

presidency for job security reasons, Kille said.

Kille said, ultimately, only time would tell if Obama makes the UN a key priority on his agenda as president. He said the UN is optimistic.

"There's overwhelming support and hope," Kille said.

Stephen Di Benedetto can be reached at 581-7942 or at sdibenedetto@eiu.edu.

» Library

FROM PAGE 1

Nadler told them to put the survey in the events e-mail that comes out once a week.

Kromphardt will present the resolution to distribute the already created library hours survey through e-mail once all seats are filled in the Student Senate next semester.

Kromphardt said he would be interested in continuing the library hours research if he got a Student Senate seat after elections and retained the chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

"I hope (if I am not the Chair again) that the person who is continuing this research," Kromphardt said.

Michelle Murphy, a member of the Academic Affairs Committee, said she has gone through peer institutions such as Western Illinois University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and compared library hours.

Michelle Adeniyi, a member of the committee, has also been compiling information into a spreadsheet.

"It is for anyone who wants to pursue this issue in the future," Kromphardt said. "We never know what is going to happen and we need

"The first thing we are here for is academics. If students really need more hours and we can get it done, we should."

— Levi Bulgar, student body president

to make sure all the proper steps are taken."

If there is positive input from the students for extending library hours,

then the Academic Affairs Committee would take it to President Bill Perry or Nadler and they would take it from there.

"There is only so much we can do through Student Senate," Kromphardt said. "We are hoping that if there is a strong enough case, then we can present it to President Perry."

If the resolution is brought forward and passes, and the survey is distributed, the committee will go forward with what the students want.

"Whatever the results of the survey come back, we will stick with them," said Bradley Saribekian, a

member of the committee. "It is obviously not worth it (to extend library hours) if that is not what the student body wants."

Student Body President Levi Bulgar thinks that, just like any other major institution, Eastern understands that a common ground between what the students want and what the institution can afford needs to be made.

"The first thing we are here for is academics," Bulgar said. "If students really need more hours and we can get it done, we should."

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

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NATION | FINANCIAL AID

Dept. of Education wants to simplify financial aid

Reducing the number of questions among changes

By EMILY ZULZ
Administration Editor

The current application for federal student aid is six pages long, with more than 100 questions.

The U.S. Department of Education has proposed legislation that would reduce that to two pages and 27 questions.

Sara Martinez Tucker, the U.S. under secretary of education, introduced the department's plans to Congress in the middle of November.

"The desire to simplify that process would be very, very helpful," President Bill Perry said.

Perry said the process of filling out the forms for financial aid and understanding all the different kinds of financial aid available is a complex arena.

Jane Zieren, director of the Office of Financial Aid, said the more than 100 questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid takes about one hour to complete.

Although, Zieren said if parents or students complete the online worksheet using their federal tax returns, the process is not complicated.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) collects the necessary data to determine a student's eligibility for participation in federal student assistance programs such as the Federal Pell Grant Program, Federal Direct Loan Program, and Federal Work Study and the Federal Perkins Loan, she said.

Some changes have already been made to the form for the 2009-10 year.

Zieren said these changes would affect any student who applies for federal financial aid in the 09-10 school year.

"They have added five additional dependency questions which should reduce the number of dependency overrides our office performs each year based on special circumstances," Zieren said. "Proof will be requested and verified by our office."

These changes also include an increase of the maximum family income to qualify for an automatic zero contribution from \$20,000 to \$30,000, she said.

"There are more exclusions for untaxed income which will reduce the family contribution or ability to pay for lower income families," Zieren said.

Untaxed income that will be excluded in the new form, Zieren said, include earned income credit, child tax credit, welfare payments, untaxed Social Security benefits, Workforce Investment Act educational benefits, benefits from flexible spending arrangements, foreign income exclusion or credit for federal tax on special fuels.

The recent proposal for a simplified financial aid process suggests a change where the government would determine the amount of federal aid an individual student would receive.

In this process, the government would calculate the maximum amount of federal grant and subsidized loan funds that the neediest student could receive and would recommend that to be the amount of the average cost of attendance at two-year public colleges.

Then the government would calculate the amount an individual student would be qualified for based on their adjusted gross income

and tax exemptions.

The amount of aid to the student would then be based on the adjusted gross income as compared to poverty income levels.

Under the proposal, the amount of need-based grant, loan and work-study aid the student warranted would be based on how their adjusted gross income compared to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty income levels.

"Anything that will help with the ease of the application process is beneficial to the student," Zieren said.

Perry said until the exact details in the plan of simplification is known, it is hard to say what the impact would be on our students.

"As with any kind of change in a system, that on the face of it could look good by simplifying, there are details that have to be analyzed, fleshed out so that we can know what the impact would be on our students," Perry said. "We want it to be an advantage for our students."

Emily Zulz can be reached at 581-7942 or at ezulz@eu.edu

LOCAL | COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students help spread holiday spirit with campus toy drive

Student Community Service, Greeks working with Catholic Charities to collect presents

By KARA KIRKPATRICK
Staff Reporter

Student Community Service is partnering with One Campus, One Community, to bring the Christmas spirit to everyone in need with a campus toy drive to benefit local children and families.

The toys will be given to "Christmas For

Kids," a local toy drive in Mattoon that provides new toys for children and families in need. "Christmas For Kids" is organized by Catholic Charities with the goal of spreading Christmas spirit in any way possible.

The campus toy drive started on Nov. 20 and runs through Friday.

Rachel Fisher, interim director of Student Community Service said the toys that are donated will go to local children in the Charleston and Mattoon area.

"These kids would otherwise not receive toys during this season, and this is a great way to ensure that the holiday spirit comes to

everyone," Fisher said.

Other groups on campus, such as sororities and fraternities, have had boxes set up in their houses for the past couple weeks asking their members to donate toys as well.

Michelle Bosco, president of Delta Zeta, said she was more than willing to participate in the toy drive.

"I made an announcement to all the girls about it and suggested that they try and donate something to the cause before it's over," she said. "After a week, we had more than 10 toys in our box and I was really proud of that."

Student Community Service is accepting all new toys for children from infant to 13 years old, with the greatest need for ages 11 to 13.

Student Community Service is located on the third floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union in the Student Life Office, which is where all the donations are ultimately being dropped off.

Donations are accepted from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Kara Kirkpatrick can be reached at 581-7942 or at DKNewsdesk@gmail.com.

STATE | TRANSPORTATION

Amtrak drops opposition to sale of railway line to Canadian company

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Amtrak has dropped its opposition to the hotly debated sale of a suburban Chicago railway line even as a dispute emerges over a track through Illinois' capital, where another company also hopes to improve the flow of its freight-train traffic.

Amtrak said Wednesday it reached an

agreement with Canadian National Railway, which wants to buy the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway line that swings around Chicago.

The passenger service had worried CN would abandon or stop maintaining other Chicago-area tracks if it went through with the \$300 million sale, which would jeopardizing Amtrak's own service between Chicago's Union Station and Champaign, Carbondale

and other cities.

But under the agreement, Montreal-based CN will maintain the St. Charles Air Line tracks even if federal officials approve its purchase and it switches trains to the EJ&E.

However, ending opposition to the EJ&E sale should not be construed as active support, said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari.

"Our position is now neutral compared to

opposition," he said.

CN's bid to purchase the nearly 200-mile EJ&E has created a firestorm, with many communities along the line saying a sharp rise in the number of freight trains would pose safety hazards and severely disrupt residents' lives.

Other communities in or near Chicago would see a reduction in trains and back CN.

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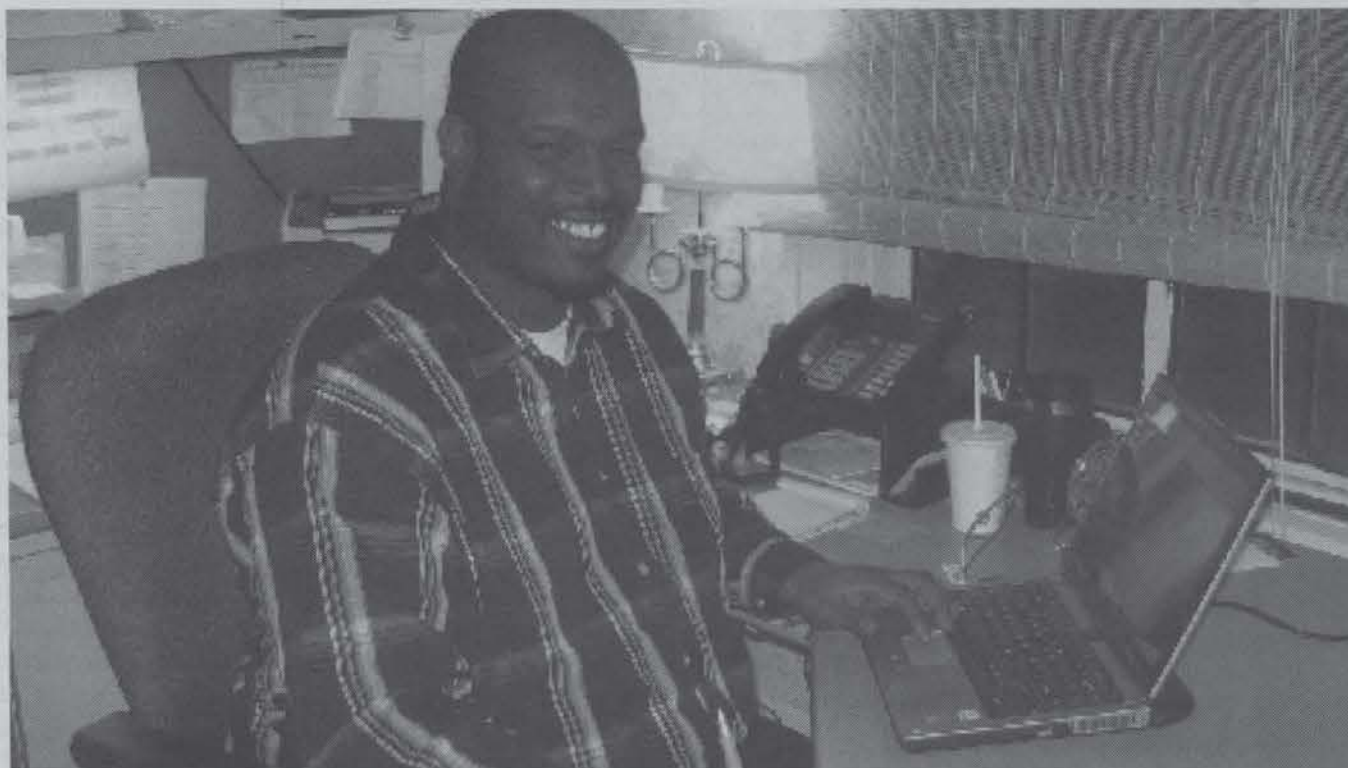
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MINORITY TODAY

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VOL 1 ISSUE 10



Charles Kyle/Managing Editor

Phillip Thompson Alumni Service faculty member and STRONG coordinator hopes new program will be successful.

Minority Affairs, Alumni Service introduce STRONG

By Sheree Patterson
Editor in Chief

Of the 300 black men who attend Eastern 67 are of them are grad students, said P.J. Thompson assistant director of alumni service.

In an effort to increase the number of black males who earn bachelors and masters from Eastern, the office of Minority Affairs and Alumni Service introduced a new program that will start spring semester.

Successful Teaching Relative to Overcoming Negative Generalities (STRONG) program was presented

by Thompson to black alumni at noon Sunday Nov. 2 in University Ballroom in the Martin Luther King, Jr University Union.

Mona Davenport director of Minority Affairs said the program "will be facilitated by the African American faculty, staff and the community to assist with leadership development, the transition to Charleston and a predominantly White Institution, preparing for the professional world, and much more"

The program will give students the opportunity to connect with alums

who know what the real world is like and they can encourage them to complete their masters, Thompson, said.

"We want to get students to stay here for a year, year and a half and leave Eastern with two degrees instead of one because a bachelors isn't enough anymore," said Thompson.

Nick Sanders, admissions counselor and who will be a mentor in this program said he wanted to get involved as a way to give back to the community.

See black males page 4

AIDS awareness; showing Red to save lives

By Jamar Herrod
Staff Writer

According to the Centers for Disease Control, around the world 33 million people are living with HIV with nearly 7,500 new infections occurring each day

The Red Show, a fashion show dedicated to World AIDS Day was held in the Grand Ballroom on December 1, 2008. Among the organizations involved with the presentation were: New Student Programs, Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry, EIU Pride, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, Eastern Reads, Health Education Resource Center (HERC).

Stacy Council, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, discussed how the event came about.

"The purpose of this event was to inform people about HIV/AIDS, how you get and prevent it." Council also stated that this was the first-time The Red Show was held on Eastern's campus.

According to the 2000 census, blacks, although only making up 13 percent of the US population, accounted for 49 percent of the 37,331 new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the US in the 33 states with long-term confidential name-based HIV reporting.

Whites accounted for 31 percent of these diagnoses.

Paige Roberts, director of the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry gave her input on the event.

"The purpose of the event was to create awareness, and remind people about the AIDS epidemic." Roberts says the idea came up during a meeting. "We talked about fundraising for malaria and then the idea came up for World AIDS Day."

Darnise Adams, a sophomore Accounting major, expressed her thoughts on the event.

"I learned that AIDS is everywhere and it is not in one continent."

Later, Adams mentioned some of the myths about AIDS. One myth is that you can contract it by drinking from the same cup or using the same utensils as someone who has it or by kissing.

In addition, her sister Lucy Adams, a freshmen Business major also shared her insight about the show.

"I learned that AIDS is sweeping across the nation and it affects everybody."

She also gave her ideas about myths associated with AIDS.

"One of the myths about AIDS is that you can catch it from touching someone or that it is airborne."



Alycia Rockey/Daily Eastern News

Freshman physical therapy major Brittany Richardson walks down the stage during the "Red Show," which promoted AIDS awareness Monday evening in the Grand Ballroom

Panel Challenges Offensive Slurs

By Spenser Nobles
News Editor

EIU Pride along with other Recognized Student Organization (RSO) sponsored a panel discussion on reclaiming slurs in which they spoke about ethnic, sexuality and gender-based slurs "without asterisks."

The nine panelists and attendees of the event discussed controversial issues that come along with terms such as 'gay,' 'retarded,' among others.

Terri Fredrick, an English professor and EIU Pride advisor, was the moderator of the event. The discussed words after her question were apparent.

"When I hear the word 'nigger,' it's time to fight," said African American Studies professor Yolanda Williams.

"Even though this is an intellectual discussion it still stings," Williams said, and you should cringe when you hear it."

Others shared similar dislikes to bitch, cunt, fag and queer and their experiences that helped shape their opinions, with the audience.

"I struggle with embracing it and I'm not sure if I want to," said Dan Koteski, president of EIU Pride.

Also discussed among the panelist were questions about the notion that slurs can remain within a certain community in an attempt to reclaim them and what some view as excuses to use the terms. Mason Abernathy, member of EIU Pride, stated that the youthful generation of today does not see the same actions that used to be associated with those terms.

Williams, who responded said "It's still going on," and added while the actions are not as frequent as they once were, they still happen.

Women's studies coordinator Jeannie Ludlow reasoned that the use of slurs among groups of friends does not stop racism and that it is not possible to stop people from using the slurs in ways that are meant to degrade others.

Toward the end of the event, members of the audience, including Communication Studies professor David Butts and several students, chipped in by asking questions and commenting on the issues at hand.

See 'words sting' page 4

Happy Holidays From the Staff of Minority Today!!!

Show PRIDE in Eastern by supporting PRIDE

Staff Editorial

EIU PRIDE has sponsored or co-sponsored seven events in the month and a half, yet the masses are unaware of this fact.

As far as programs are concerned they are having just as many programs as other minority Registered Student Organizations (RSO).

If one were to tally the events that have been sponsored or co-sponsored by PRIDE at the end of this semester they would be on even par with many of our minority organizations here on campus and out pacing others. Yet, PRIDE events are rarely covered, with that blame falling on us, but more importantly the events are not supported by the student body either.

Most students are familiar with PRIDE whether it be for their annual drag show they put on or their annual day of silence, or even because one might have friends who are apart of PRIDE.

The point is the student body knows who PRIDE is but still doesn't support

their events. They too are students and are a part of the minority community, and have faced injustice as well. Even if one feels like their events aren't relevant to them they should still attend them just to broaden their horizon on the subjects and issues that they many considered foreign.

If nothing is taken from the events, one will leave more informed than before. Society, our generation most importantly, must overcome this fear of the unknown that some suffer from. We say fear because although we know there are individuals who suffer from homophobia, we do not feel as if the masses are not "homophobes", but more or less just misinformed, and or scared of what they don't know in the unknown parts of our diverse world.

Our plea to you, the student body, is to please go out to PRIDE events because they too are students, and just like all the other RSO's (minority or not) they should be supported.

Reflections of A lost holiday

By Stephen Tyler

Imagine this: I'm walking with one of my fellow comrades to Wal-Mart in order to purchase several goods.

As we approach the entrance we see a man in a red suit with boots, a bell and an awesome yet artificial beard. Sound familiar? I thought to myself how amusing, but wait it's only November 12th why such an early marketing of Christmas?

For anyone who observes the U.S. market then this obvious truth is all too prevalent. Christmas is marketed in such a manner that it downplays the significance of Thanksgiving. I have actually witnessed in specific stores that mark down the count of Christmas from July! I understand that "it's the most wonderful time of the year", but does that mean that it should stampede over the rest of the holidays.

The focus on Christmas over Thanksgiving plays on a more receiving rather than giving culture.

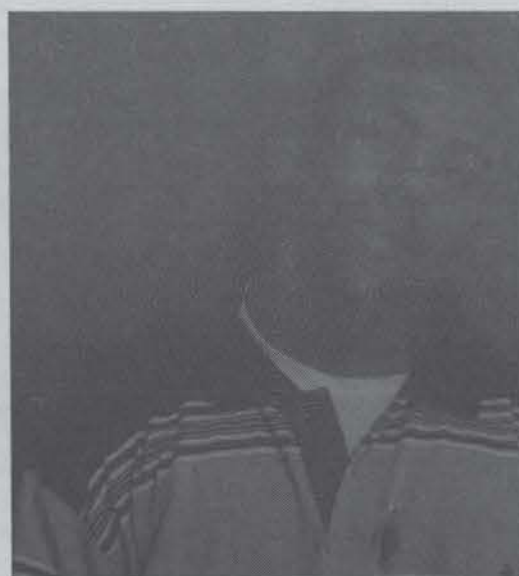
Although others do usually exchange gifts on Christmas the prosperity is over emphasized rather than appreciation for that prosperity as Thanksgiving entails.

While there is no mystery that this is done purposely seeing how Christmas is the most profitable time of the years for companies, it should at least be accommodated by proportionate number of Thanksgiving commercials.

People are losing sight of the important aspects that Thanksgiving it's not just about giving thanks to present blessing, but to blessings past present and future.

Without the past blessings then it would be impossible for one to enjoy the present, future blessings too.

As I observe the majority of my peers, they



mostly speak of what they don't have. It's always I need this, and I'm tired of not having that. Coming from where I'm from, Harvey, Illinois the life I live is a luxury, and I don't even have a computer! I encourage those who read this to take the time to really appreciate where you are, and what blessings you truly having going for you.

When working with my father, I traveled to some of the most repugnant areas around Chicago. Within these cities were people who would have genuine smiles if granted the simple things that we have.

Food, clothing, and shelter are perhaps the most underrated privileges that many have, but fail to acknowledge as bona fide blessings.

It is impossible to have a Merry Christmas without giving thanks to those that made it possible for everyone to sing carols and go shopping.

"A time for us to change"

By Jamar Herrod

For the African-American community, we are humbled and proud that President-elect Barack Obama is our 44th President. As we watch his presidency unfold, we also have a responsibility to increase our standards as black people. For instance, we can not allow ourselves to believe that Obama's duties as an African-American president will ensure us a pass that everyone can do whatever they want. All the laws of the land are still intact and it will be an embarrassment for anyone to become misguided in our behavior because of the victory of one man. On Nov. 4, 2008 was a historical moment for American history, however, there are issues within the black community that we need to resolve. For example, black women must reclaim their thrones as Nubian queens. After being a breeder for the white slave owner, raped, severely beaten, and oftentimes not receiving enough acknowledgement in black history, black women are now being exploited as "video vixens" and degrade themselves for a few minutes of fame on television.

To my black brothers, we have to gain our standards as educated and strong. Life is not always about money and trying to get a hustle. Everything is not always about buying the latest gear and never saving any money, and then blaming employers for not giving us enough in wages. We can not be limited to the means of playing the victim when we have a black man in power. We must be among the ones who are responsible for our children, attain college degrees, and become leading examples for the black people. Obama's win should enhance our ability to come together, not detour it. For those of who are in school, the uplifting starts with you. It is imperative that we start changing things within our own realm. No one is expecting everyone to make a difference overnight, it is difficult to make modifications right away. However, by just receiving your college degree, being a responsible citizen, giving back to the community, upholding our women to the highest respect, and persisting with our goals even when struggle comes, is the starting point for change.

Reflect for a moment back in the 1960s, when many blacks came together marching for their rights. No one was thinking about Jordans, shiny rims, and fancy cars. Our people were told they could not enter the restaurants, hotels, schools, railroad cars as whites because of the color of our skin. We are privileged to have the right to eat at a diner, book a room in a hotel, sit in classrooms, and ride on trains without racial discrimination. Don't let the sweat, blood, and tears of our ancestors for civil rights to be lost in vain. We must respect those who came before us and listen. Our generation has never experienced blows to the head by police officers, water canons that break bones, or attack dogs that rip off your clothes. Wake up! Watching our community crumble is not going to resolve anything and neither is being the victim. Allow Obama to become the best President he can, and let us become the examples that will build our community to a better place where we are proud of who we are and remember where we came from.

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Ms. Black EIU in a Golden light, making mom proud

By Sheree Patterson
Editor in Chief

Homecoming queen 2008, Ms. Black 2008, Chaundra Golden has worn a few crowns but her admiration and aspirations don't lie in titles or Hollywood.

Golden decided to attend a university away from home to experience something new.

"People always ask why I didn't attend Illinois State University," Golden said. "I wanted a change I wanted to attend a smaller school as well as get away from home but not too far."

Golden said her most memorable moment growing up was graduating from high school because of what it exemplified.

"I was out on my own, Golden said, "it opened the door for my chance to experience the world and grow."

Chaundra Golden said she tells people college is a place where people learn a lot about themselves and the field they choose to study.

As a freshman family and consumer science major Golden said she was exposed to the not so glamorous side of her field that reinforced the necessity of people to enter the profession.

"It allowed me to see how much work they do for low pay, if no one wanted to do that we'd be going nowhere fast," said Golden.



Chaundra Golden and Preston Williams pose for a picture after being crowned homecoming queen and prince.

Winning homecoming court and Ms. Black EIU were unexpected wins for Golden.

"Both were definite shocks," Golden said. "It felt good to not only represent the African-

American population but minority students as a whole."

Chaundra's mother Leontyne Golden said when she found Chaundra won homecoming queen she was excited, proud and a little sad.

"We had a time conflict so I couldn't be there, but I'm a big supporter and believe young people need support," Leontyne Golden said. "I'm so proud of her, so I had to get family and friends to come so she would have support in addition to students and friends at Eastern."

Home coming court is stereotyped as an event that's not for minorities and something an African-American woman wouldn't win, when Chaundra won it discredited that stereotype and showed how African-American females need to be active on campus, because it is possible to win, said Nicole Watts, senior communication studies major.

Golden's personality, attitude, and how she carries herself is what makes her a queen, said Watts. Chaundra is caring, compassionate, about taking care of business and has strong faith in God said Leontyne Golden, the person who Chaundra admires most.

"She's hardworking, dedicated, determined and always willing to go the extra mile to lend a helping hand, and I live my life by the values she has taught me said," Golden said of her mother.

International students feed for annual fundraiser

By Sheree Patterson
Editor in Chief

Sushi, German pancake, egg rolls, catfish, brownies, Indian rice, Chinese rice and plantain were some of the foods available for guests to try at "Tastes of the World."

Taste of the world is an annual potluck that was started last year by the Association for International Students (AIS) it took place Nov. 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Melvin Kelly, 21 of Las Vegas, said it was his first time trying foods from different cultures, but said his favorite was the curry and potato pancake, but couldn't bring himself to try some of the other things because of their unfamiliar appearance.

Fallon Kelly, sophomore health studies major said she enjoyed the Indian and Chinese food

and thought it was a nice event to have before the holidays.

"I think it's a nice gesture to get everyone together before the holiday and before everyone goes on break so we get a little insight to what everyone is going home to," said Kelly.

Olivier David, music grad student and president of AIS said "Tastes of the World" was started last year and was something he wanted to keep a yearly tradition because of as a fundraiser and "to have a coming together of not typical Charleston food."

"Cultural awareness is an enhancing experience of life, you gain so much from meeting people from different cultures, different points of view and one is benefit of delicious dishes, it (being culturally aware) helps the understanding of human kind in general," said David.

David described AIS as a social support group.

"We help students who are new to the country with immediate needs which is really useful in the beginning of the semester when people don't know where their classes are," said David.

Raising awareness of international population on campus, giving international students the chance to mingle among themselves and meet people from other countries, are other goals of the organization, said David.

In the future David said he hopes to work with all the ethnic organizations on campus and plan a cultural awareness week.

To join AIS you don't have to be an international student, which is why it's not called The Association of International students.

For more information you can email Sue Songer at sesonger@eiu.edu or Olivier David at podavid@eiu.edu.

Organization returns after two semesters of inactivity

By Zinika Livingston
Staff Writer

Ogechi Violet Nwordu, is excited.

Nwordu is president of the African Student Association (ASA) and it is their organization first year being active since 2005.

ASA became inactive in 2007 because there was no one to fulfill the president position.

Nwordu, who is part Nigerian was apart of ASA in 2005-2006 and felt it was necessary to bring ASA back. She took the

initiative to start it again and ASA now has 15 members.

Nwordu believes the biggest struggle is to avoid negative stereotypes of Africa shown in the media.

She wants people to see the other side of Africa, not the Africa shown on television.

"It's important for the school to know the truth about Africa and African culture," she said.

Steven Nwokwcha, secretary of ASA, became involved with ASA last year because of a friend who attended another university. Nwokwcha joined to make others aware

of different cultures and, "it's great for networking."

ASA has had one fundraiser this year called Sweet Africa.

It was a food showcase of different African foods such as goat meat, jollof rice; which originated from West Africa, and plantain.

There will be another Sweet Africa next year along with a cultural fashion show. The fashion show is scheduled for Feb. 15 for Black History Month.

"ASA is not just for Africans, Nwordu said "It's open for all nationalities."

Uganda native stays humble in new roles at Eastern

By Spenser Nobles
News Editor

Dr. James Ochwa-Echel's surroundings have brought him many different experiences and accomplishments. Now, at Eastern, Ochwa-Echel is faced with the challenge of being the new coordinator of the African American Studies program, director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Global Diversity and assistant professor of Secondary Education and Foundations.

Growing up with no electricity in Uganda, Ochwa-Echel's family and other residents had to use re-used tin cans as candles.

He walked 10 miles every day in order to attend school. Because of the many different ethnic groups, many of which speak different languages, in the Uganda area, he fluently speaks several languages, including Swahili and Lwo, his local dialect.

Ochwa-Echel has been a resident of the United States for about 13 years. After finishing the advanced level of their school system—which is based on the British schooling system—Ochwa-Echel received a scholarship which allowed him to study in Germany, where he received his first degree in international relations.

He then traveled back to Uganda where he taught economics for two years in a secondary school, before coming to the US and attending Boston University where he received his master's degree in international relations.

After returning to Uganda, Ochwa-Echel worked with a non-governmental organization on the

protection of elephants for two years. Then, traveling back to the US, he attended Ohio University, obtaining a master's in international development.

After working with the National Institute of Health for a year, Ochwa-Echel returned to Ohio University to get a doctorate in education, which he financed by working as an assistant resident director.

While writing his dissertation, Ochwa-Echel taught in the African American Studies department of Oberlin College for four years.

Then, after graduating in 2005, he accepted a 2-year position at Eastern Washington. Now at Eastern, Ochwa-Echel has taken on many responsibilities and goals within the roles of his positions.

As African American Studies coordinator, his job consists of overseeing the functioning of the program, which includes filling the faculty teaching positions and trying to get resources for majors.

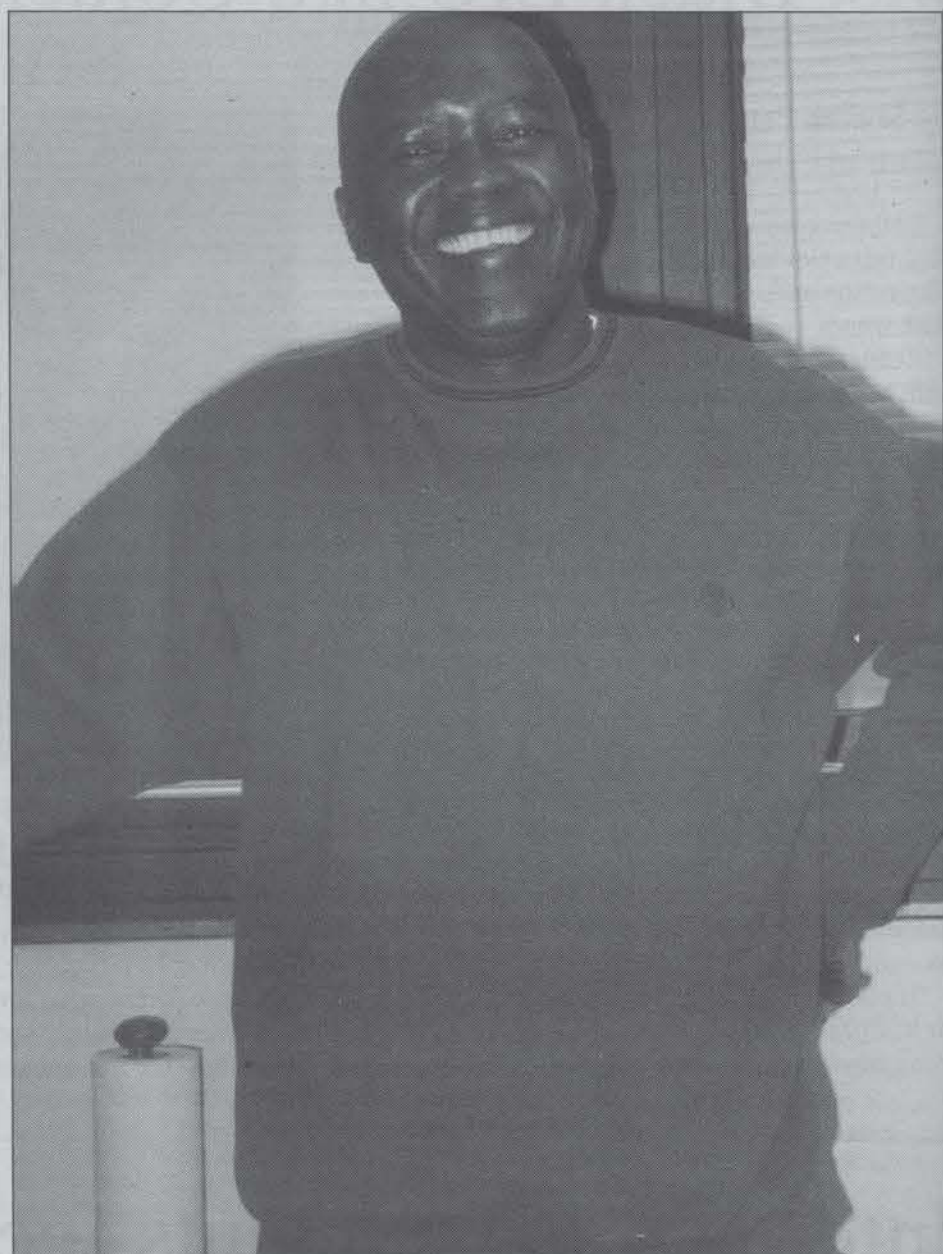
English professor Michael Loudon, who was part of the search committee that hired Ochwa-Echel, described Ochwa-Echel as easy-going and patient.

"He's easy-going, capable of listening and laid back," Loudon said.

In addition to his current duties, Ochwa-Echel will have teaching responsibilities in the fall of 2009 while still holding his current positions.

"I think he has got a lot of work ahead of him," Loudon said.

Ochwa-Echel still visits Uganda, as he is the only member of the family that resides in America. He has started a school project there and wants to



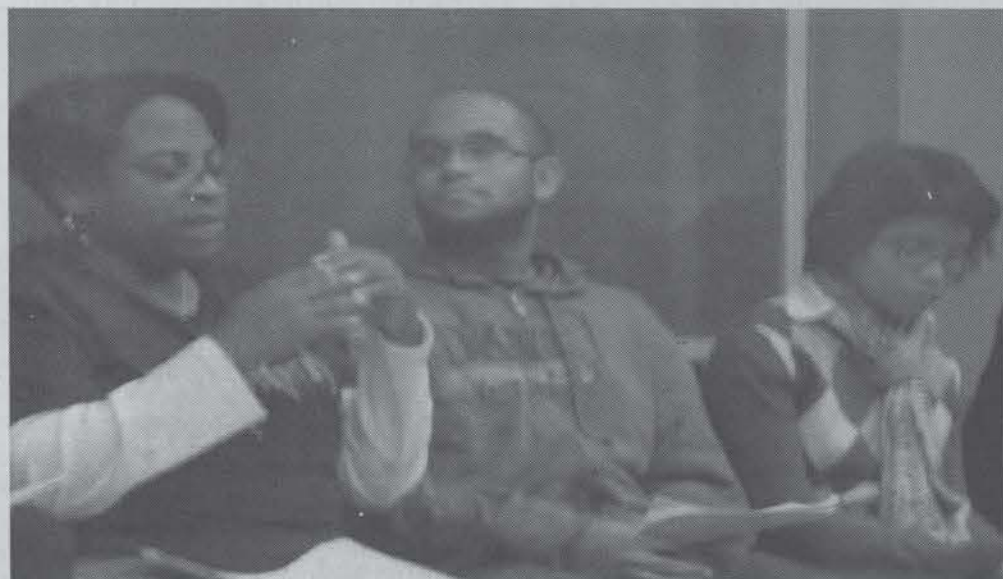
Sheree Patterson/Editor in Chief
Professor Ochwa-Echel is a new faculty member at Eastern

build a school for nursing and has also salvaged a center for HIV and AIDS counseling.

"I did a lot of voluntary work for Habitat for Humanity so I have

experience with construction, which I am now using [in Uganda]," Ochwa-Echel said. "I feel it's my responsibility to help people in the community that I came from."

'Words Sting'



Sheree Patterson/Editor in Chief
Yolanda Williams, Justin Barret, and Elizabeth Hood at slurs event.

Butts stated that he did, in fact, have a problem with the synopsis of the event, saying that the word "reclaim" was not appropriate for this event.

"To reclaim suggests that I had ownership over it at some point," Butts said stating that most of the slurs were never owned by the groups that they victimize.

"There are a lot more words in the English dictionary," said Black Student

"To reclaim suggests that I had ownership over it at some point."

— Communication Studies professor David Butts said at the Reclaiming Racial Slurs event.

Union member Justin Barret. "I guess it's time to pull them out."

black males continued from page 4

"They don't work hard, they're not focused, don't have any professional parlor, they don't have good communication skills, and don't know proper English" are negative connotations associated with black men, said Sanders that STRONG will counteract.

"If a student exhibits this behavior a mentor can reach back and correct them, use proper English, look a person in the face when you're talking to them and dress professionally," said Sanders.

While this may be a program new to Eastern's campus, the lack of black males in leadership roles has gained national attention.

"CNN Presents: Black in America" had a segment that discussed the complex issues black males face.

The African American Male Task Force held meetings that discuss the lack of leadership and identity crisis's that black men face in East St. Louis, Peoria, Springfield, Rockford, Matteson and Chicago.

Sanders, who does presentations in high schools said he's noticed that women tend to be more focused.

"Men are more focused in sports and military, a man can be considered lame if he's a thinker, men are thought to not think and just take over," Sanders said.

STRONG will have workshops on "Black in America," Hip-Hop vs. America- a black mans perspective, the black community, study skills, dining etiquette and how to dress for corporate America.

Faculty and staff will conduct these workshops said Davenport.

Thompson said the program is already developed and they just need to recruit mentors and students.

Students must be black male sophomore, junior or senior to be considered for the program.

If alumni are interested in becoming a mentor can contact Alumni Service, and students who would like to be a part of STRONG should contact D'Wayne Jenkins in TRIO.

STATE BRIEFS

The Associated Press

Lack of demand idles steel production in Illinois

GRANITE CITY — A state response team said Wednesday that it would help thousands of Illinois workers affected by United States Steel Corp.'s decision to lay off workers and temporarily suspend operations at three plants, including one in Granite City.

U.S. Steel announced earlier this week that it would temporarily idle the facilities and lay off 3,500 union and nonunion workers in its latest bid to cut production amid falling demand for steel products. "We believe that our difficult decision to temporarily consolidate our production is a necessary response to current market conditions," John Surma, U.S. Steel's chairman and chief executive, said in a statement.

The company's action would idle about 2,250 steel workers at the Granite City Works, located about 10 miles from St. Louis.

About 1,250 workers would be affected at the iron ore mining and pelletizing plant in Keewatin, Minn., and the Great Lakes Works near Detroit.

No plea deal for man accused of burning 2 sons

WHEATON — Prosecutors won't drop the death penalty in the case of a suburban Chicago man accused of killing his two sons by dousing them with gasoline and setting them on fire.

A northern Illinois judge heard Wednesday from attorneys that 34-year-old Kaushik Patel has offered to plead guilty in exchange for life in prison.

But DuPage County prosecutors have turned down the offer.

Chicago Mobsters want sentencing delay

CHICAGO — Two reputed mob bosses convicted of taking part in a murder conspiracy have asked a federal judge to postpone their sentencing.

Hitman Frank Calabrese is due for sentencing Dec. 11 and Marcello Dec. 17. They were convicted at the landmark Operation Family Secrets trial.

James Marcello says he needs time to prepare and Calabrese says he needs more time to talk with his lawyer because he has been thrown into "a segregation unit commonly known as 'the hole'" in the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

Federal spokesman Randall Samborn had no comment.

WORLD | TERROR ATTACK

Mumbai gunman offered cash

The Associated Press

MUMBAI, India — The only gunman captured during the terror attack on Mumbai says he was promised that his impoverished family would get \$1,250 if he died fighting for militant Islam, security officials said Wednesday.

The captive, 21-year-old Ajmal Amir Kasab, is from Faridkot village in the Punjab region of Pakistan, according to the two Indian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss details gleaned during a week of interrogation.

Kasab was arrested hours after the three-day rampage began the night of Nov. 26. Photographs of the young man walking calmly through Mumbai's main train station — assault rifle in hand — have made him a symbol of the attacks that killed 171 people,

including 26 foreigners.

India has blamed the banned Pakistan-based extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the carnage. But in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Pakistan's president, Asif Ali Zardari, expressed skepticism that the man in custody is a Pakistani citizen.

According to the Indian security officials, Kasab was a day laborer, like one of his brothers, before joining Lashkar.

He recounted being told that if he was "shaheed" — or "martyred" — his family would receive 100,000 Pakistani rupees, or about \$1,250, they said.

Kasab said that he and the nine gunmen killed during the attack were hand-picked for the Mumbai rampage after intensive Lashkar training, the officials said.

He told police that after landing

by boat in Mumbai, the attackers split into two-man teams. Kasab and another gunman, Ismail Khan, took a taxi from the waterfront to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, where they killed 54 people before fleeing.

They planted a bomb under the driver's seat of their taxi that exploded later, apparently so it would divert police during the attacks.

Kasab also said the team brought in bombs to be placed outside the entrances of the two luxury hotels that were attacked — timed to explode four hours and 57 minutes after they were set — and were intended to kill the police that the militants believed would surround the buildings.

Two bombs outside the Taj Mahal hotel were defused by police. A third bomb, at the Oberoi hotel, was set off by police in a controlled explosion.

WORLD | PIRACY

'Cheeky' pirates attack cruise ship

The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — Ordered to get inside and stay down, Oregon tourist Clyde Thornburg heard the pirates' rifle shots hit the side of the luxury cruise liner — "Pop! Pop! Pop!" — then felt the ship speed up to escape.

At this port north of the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden, passengers told The Associated Press on Wednesday they had been warned of the danger even before they embarked, and the crew used a device that blasted painful high-decibel sound waves to keep the marauders at bay.

The attack on the nearly 600-foot-long cruise ship in the dangerous waters between Yemen and Somalia was the latest evidence pirates have grown more brazen, viewing almost any vessel as a potential target — even a large luxury liner with hundreds of tourists on board.

But the assault on the M/S Nautica lasted only five minutes Sunday.

The ship with about 650 passengers and 400 crew members sped away quickly and was not seized.

"We didn't think they would be cheeky enough to attack a cruise ship," said Wendy Armitage, of Wellington, New Zealand, shortly after disembarking for a daylong port stop in the Omani capital of Muscat.

During the assault, pirates on one of two skiffs fired eight rifle shots at

the ship, according to its American operator, Oceania Cruises, Inc.

The captain ordered the passengers inside and accelerated the cruise liner quickly, leaving the pirates far behind in their 20- to 30-foot wooden speedboats, powered with twin outboard motors.

"I couldn't see them shooting, but I heard them hitting the ship, 'Pop! Pop! Pop!'" said Thornburg, of Bend, Ore. "It wasn't really scary because the captain announced for the safety of everybody to get inside and get down, and by that time he was pouring on the coals to the ship and was outrunning them."

Lynne Pincini of Australia said she was heading to a friend's cabin when the order came to keep their heads down and stay inside.

"We heard the announcement, and of course we went straight out on the balcony to have a look," she said. "It was like a very large speedboat. It was running alongside the boat."

The passengers were on a month-long cruise from Rome to Singapore, a route that took them through the Gulf of Aden between Somalia and Yemen, where pirates have hijacked dozens of vessels this year.

Cargo ships, cruise liners and other vessels use the route — the only access to the Suez Canal shortcut between East and West — unless they are willing to add weeks to the trip by traveling around the southern tip

of Africa.

At the beginning of the journey, the Nautica's captain briefed the passengers on what the vessel could do to ward off pirates.

Alicia Moorehead said they were told the Nautica could outrun pirates and was equipped with high-pressure water hoses and a device that blasts painful sound waves at any bandits.

Such devices can emit sounds up to 150 decibels — well above the normal pain threshold of 120 decibels — focused on targets several hundred yards away.

"We had been reassured that they had these ghetto blasters that could go through them. And we could outrun anything that they had," Pincini said.

"They had laid out the fire hoses for a high pressure repellent. They never did fire them up, but they were ready for them," said Pat Moorehead, a native of Long Beach, Calif. and Alicia Moorehead's husband.

"I will say the crew was very calm. They had prepared for this. Every staff member has an assignment in case of an emergency, and every one of them did it calmly and quickly," he added.

Some passengers said the crew used the long-range acoustic device to ward off the attack, and at least two passengers described hearing two booms after the pirates fired their rifles.

NATION BRIEFS

The Associated Press

Police: Abused Calif. boy jumped fence to escape

TRACY, Calif. — After being held captive for about a year, an emaciated and shackled 17-year-old boy climbed out a window in the home of his captors and walked into a nearby gym in search of help, police said Wednesday.

The boy has been released from a hospital and was in the custody of Child Protective Services, Tracy police spokesman Matt Robinson said.

Caren Ramirez was arrested Tuesday in Berkeley, a day after the boy walked into a gym and begged managers to hide him. He was covered in soot, had a chain on his foot and was wearing only boxer briefs.

Police arrested a couple who lived near the gym in Tracy and booked them on suspicion of torture, kidnapping and child abuse.

Second 22-year sentence for terrorist

SEATTLE — Rejecting prosecutors' calls for a life term, a federal judge on Wednesday reimposed a 22-year prison sentence for an al-Qaida-trained terrorist convicted of plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport at the turn of the millennium.

Ahmed Ressaam, whose plot was thwarted when border agents in Washington state caught him with a car packed with explosives, would be released in 10 years — at age 51 — with credit for time served and good behavior.

"He deserves to be locked up until he dies," said U.S. Attorney Jeff Sullivan.

U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour first sentenced Ressaam to 22 years in 2005, saying he deserved leniency for cooperating with investigators following his 2001 conviction on terrorism and other charges.

UAW gives concessions amidst automaker woes

DETROIT — Worried about their jobs and warned that the cost of failure could be a depression, hundreds of leaders of the United Auto Workers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to make concessions to the struggling Detroit Three.

"Everybody has to give a little bit," said Rich Bennett, an official for Local 122 in Twinsburg, Ohio.

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PANTHER BRIEFS

Bogar moves from Rays to Red Sox

Former Eastern baseball player Tim Bogar was named the Boston Red Sox first base coach on Friday.

Bogar, who played for Eastern from 1984-87, spent the past season as a Tampa Bay Rays' assistant.

His primary coaching duties made him responsible for infield defense, baserunning and advanced series preparation. He will continue to coach infield defense for the Red Sox.

The Houston Astros drafted Bogar in the 1987 First Year Player Draft.

He hit .228 in the majors and was considered a defensive specialist infielder.

Bogar's other coaching stops include stints with both the Astros' and the Cleveland Indians' farm teams.

He was named the 2005 South Atlantic League Manager of the Year after guiding the Astros' Class A Lexington Legends to a league-best record.

He followed that up with a 2006 Eastern League Manager of the Year award for the Indians' Class AA Akron Aeros.

Panthers get rematch in Louisiana to start season

Eastern's baseball team will spend the majority of the month of April playing at home at Coaches Stadium.

The Panthers have 17 games at home in April while playing a six-game and a nine-game homestand.

The Panthers' 2009 schedule was released on Tuesday.

Eastern starts its season in Hammond, La., for the second straight year with a three-game series against Southeastern Louisiana. The Panthers lost their three-game series against the Lions last season by a combined score of 22-9.

Highlights of Eastern's non-conference schedule include tournaments in Evansville, Ind., and

Tampa, Fla.

The Panthers play Saint Louis, Evansville and Butler in the Dunn Hospitality Diamond Classic in Evansville before wrapping up non-conference tournament action against South Florida, Bethune-Cookman, Oklahoma, Indiana and Bradley in the Bulls Baseball Classic in Tampa.

The Panthers start Ohio Valley Conference play on March 28 with a doubleheader against Tennessee Tech at Coaches Stadium. Eastern won the OVC Tournament last year and advanced to the NCAA Regional in Lincoln, Neb.

Four tourneys highlight softball schedule

Eastern's softball team will play in tournaments in New Mexico, South Carolina, Georgia and Kansas to start its 2009 season.

The Panthers schedule was released on Tuesday for the 2009 season.

Eastern starts play in February at the Troy Cox Classic in Las Cruces, N.M., with a 10 a.m. game against Saint Mary's (California). The Panthers also play New Mexico State (the host school), Texas-El Paso and Central Michigan.

The Troy Cox Classic is followed by the Gamecock Invitational on the campus of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C., the Owl Classic in Kennesaw, Ga., and the KU Invitational hosted by Kansas in Lawrence, Kan.

The Panthers start OVC play with a doubleheader against Tennessee State on March 13 at Williams Field.

Eastern has its longest homestand in the month of April will 11 games between April 14 and April 26 including eight conference games.

—Compiled by Sports Editor Scott Richey. He can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eiu.edu.

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» Whitchurch

FROM PAGE 12

The opening-night victory against Miami (Ohio) was important, again for momentum, but back-to-back losses to Illinois and Bradley, two formidable opponents, brought the team back down to earth after the high they experienced with the win against the Redhawks.

It's tough to tell early on what type of Panthers' team this squad is. Thus far they have beaten the

teams they are capable of beating and played everyone else close and competitive.

Tonight's game should provide a good barometer of where the team stands in the OVC.

A blowout victory will bring confidence that they are the team to beat and the team they were predicted to be in the preseason conference poll.

A win in any shape or form will provide momentum going forward through the season. A loss will bring about questions about which

"Tonight's game should provide a good barometer of where the team stands in the OVC."

direction this team is heading. But it's more likely that the former, rather than the latter, happens.

Collin Whitchurch can be reached at 581-7944 or at cwhitchurch@eiu.edu.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY | BY DARBY CONLEY



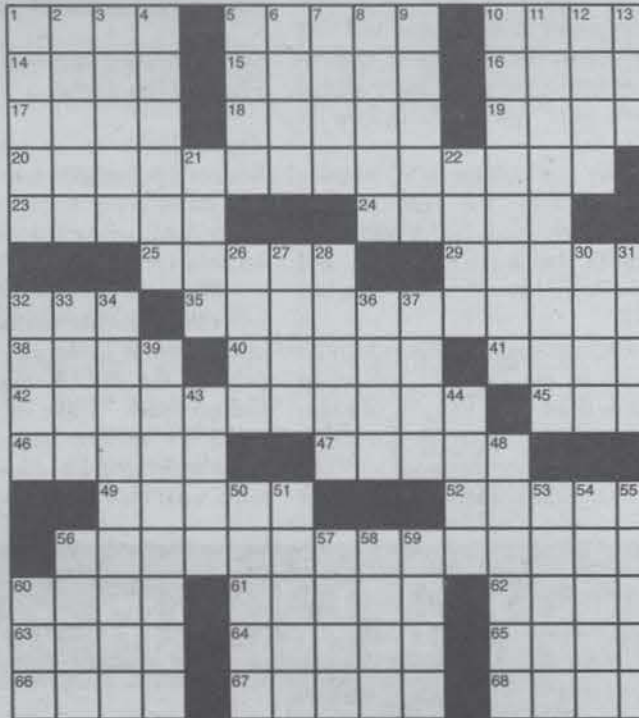
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1030

- ACROSS
- 1 Fruit variety with a sweet-spiced flavor
 - 5 Parents
 - 10 Patron saint of sailors
 - 14 ___ Arena (Kings' home)
 - 15 Godspeed
 - 16 Geological range
 - 17 Uruguay and Paraguay
 - 18 Yosemite rock features
 - 19 Money bigwigs, for short
 - 20 So-called "fox fires"
 - 23 Three-time P.G.A. Championship winner
 - 24 Intl. org. dismantled in 1977
 - 25 Penicillin target
 - 29 Infuriated
 - 32 Outdoor cooking spot
 - 35 Recording device
 - 38 Having shipped out
 - 40 Élan
 - 41 "In principio ___ Verbum"
 - 42 Certain lawsuit
 - 45 Tampa-to-Fort Myers dir.
 - 46 Mother ___
 - 47 Kitchen gadget brand
 - 49 Who's creator
 - 52 List in an insurance report, maybe
 - 56 What the ends of 20-, 35- and 42-Across are, collectively
 - 60 ___ Sailer, three-time 1956 skiing gold medalist
 - 61 "See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!" speaker
 - 62 B.C. neighbor
 - 63 Big area of philanthropy, with "the"
 - 64 "Mi chiamano Mimi" and others
 - 65 Resting place
 - 66 Reassuring words after an accident
 - 67 Big city newspaper desk
 - 68 Car radio mode
- DOWN
- 1 Stock holders
 - 2 Night sky feature
 - 3 Get the point?
 - 4 Longtime NBC Olympics host
 - 5 Wane
 - 6 Repute
 - 7 Represent by drawing
 - 8 Falls (over)
 - 9 "Wake Up Little ___"
 - 10 On every single occasion
 - 11 Take-home?
 - 12 Calls to farmers
 - 13 Carry-___
 - 21 Modern show shower
 - 22 Certain ballroom event
 - 26 European capital
 - 27 Cabinet dept.
 - 28 Penne topper
 - 30 S&L offerings
 - 31 November 4, e.g.
 - 32 A sergeant might ask soldiers to pick it up
 - 33 Española, for one
 - 34 Lambastes
 - 36 Johnny with the 1958 hit "Willie and the Hand Jive"
 - 37 Codger
 - 39 Record follower, at times
 - 43 "Leaving Las Vegas" actress
 - 44 ___ Point Lighthouse, Massachusetts landmark since 1838
 - 48 Detox centers
 - 50 "Hit the road!"
 - 51 Stock holder
 - 53 "I mean it!"
 - 54 Socratic student
 - 55 Desolate
 - 56 R.A.'s place
 - 57 Rule out
 - 58 Parent
 - 59 Blah
 - 60 James Clavell's "___-Pan"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



PUZZLE BY CHUCK HAMILTON

- 7 Represent by drawing
- 8 Falls (over)
- 9 "Wake Up Little ___"
- 10 On every single occasion
- 11 Take-home?
- 12 Calls to farmers
- 13 Carry-___
- 21 Modern show shower
- 22 Certain ballroom event
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GALLIGAN LEADS PANTHERS TO VICTORY



RACHEL GALLIGAN

Top Cat is a weekly feature that showcases one of the top athletes from the past week and gives a profile of the top player and moments from the sporting event.

Senior forward aiming for Panthers' all-time points record

By BOB SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Reporter

If Rachel Galligan continues the pace she started her first three seasons at Eastern, she may find her place at the top of Eastern's record books.

The senior forward on Eastern women's basketball team has scored 108 points in the Panthers' seven games this season. Galligan leads the team in points, rebounds (50) and blocked shots (10).

Galligan, who already holds the all-time record for blocked shots and free throws made, is looking to become Eastern's all-time leader in points scored.

In her senior year, Galligan only needs 390 points to secure her spot atop the Eastern's record books in points.

"I'm going to give it my best shot," Galligan said. "The more points I score, the more points the team scores so that gives us a better chance to win more games. It's not my ultimate goal to be number one in points, but it is exciting being in this position."

As the Panthers (4-3) begin conference play today against Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee State, they look to stay undefeated at Lantz Arena.

The Panthers have their next four games at home and will face off against two conference rivals as they follow the game today with a home game against Austin Peay on Saturday.

"We are interested in winning championships this year," Eastern head coach Brady Saltee said. "We want to play in the postseason, and I think we have the team that can do it."

Galligan scored a season-high 28 points in the Panthers' nail-biting loss to Bradley on Oct. 19. She also had her 150th career block and her 400th career free throw.

She picked up her 15th career



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior forward Rachel Galligan scored 15.3 points per game on .594 percent shooting in the Panthers' three games during the Courtyard Marriott Florence Thanksgiving Classic in Cincinnati, which resulted in two Eastern wins. Galligan leads the Panthers in scoring, rebounds and blocks.

double-double in the game against Bradley and will look to keep her hot streak going as she returns to Lantz Arena where she has averaged 16 points and nine rebounds.

"We want to win conference, win the conference tournament, go undefeated at home and go on to play in the NCAA tournament," Galligan said. "I like the pressure, and I like working under pressure. I'm a senior and I'm a leader and if that's what I have to do for the team

then, I'm willing to do it for everybody."

Galligan is looking to become the first Panther women's basketball player to earn first team All-OVC for three straight years.

As a sophomore, Galligan averaged 17.2 points, 1.6 blocks and 8.3 rebounds per game.

Although this season she has been slightly below her average, Galligan said she believes she can fix that with the next four games being

home games.

With the Panthers having five seniors on the team and having reached the championship game of the OVC Tournament last season, it would not be unexpected to see them make a run for the NCAA tournament.

"The seniors have had the pressure of turning this into a winning program and now they have the pressure of taking it to the next level," Saltee said. "This is the best

team I have ever had from the talent stand point, but what you do with it is the most important thing. The pieces of the puzzle are there, now it's up to us. We are excited about where we are going and the reason we have been good at home is because of our crowd, and I encourage people to come out and support this team."

Bob Shaughnessy can be reached at 581-7944 or at rshaughnessy@eiu.edu.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | EASTERN VS. TENNESSEE STATE

Miller sees improvements despite losses

Rebounding, scoring more consistent said men's coach

By **DAN CUSACK**
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite losing all three games during Thanksgiving break, Eastern head coach Mike Miller said he saw improvements in his basketball team.

The Panthers dropped two games to Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne by a combined six points, but Miller said he saw improvements from the 81-77 overtime loss on Nov. 22 to the 76-74 loss on Friday.

"Some of the things that I was pleased with were our emphasis on rebounding," Miller said. "We played Fort Wayne the first time, and they out-rebounded us by three. We played them the second time and out-rebounded them by 13. So there is a big swing in there with the same people playing."

Miller said the Panthers are slowly seeing aspects of the game that they are becoming more consistent with after those aspects were emphasized.

"Our team is really close right now, really close, and we need to do a few more of those things that will get us to the top," Miller said.

Among the other improvements Miller said he saw during the three games during Thanksgiving Break were some of the returning players stepping up and playing more consistently.

Miller said junior center Ousmane Cisse was efficient in his play against IPFW on Nov. 29 as he had a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds. He said junior guard Romain Martin and sophomore guard Tyler Laser were also consistent during the three games.

"For the first two weeks, we have shown that we can score a little bit and we can score pretty quick at times and in different ways," Miller said. "When you can do that you can stay in games. When you can stop people you can win games."

The Panthers (1-4) will look to continue to improve as they open Ohio Valley Conference play 8 tonight at Lantz Arena against Tennessee State (2-5).

"(The Tigers) are an athletic team, and they are very talented," Miller said. "They are playing off three guys that can score a lot of points."

Sophomore guard Gerald Robinson, who Miller said was one of the top guards in the OVC right now, leads the Tigers with 22 points per game and four assists per game.

The Tigers feature a tall front court with 6-foot-8 senior center Jerrell Houston averaging 17 points and 7.7 rebounds a game, while 6-foot-7 sophomore forward Darrius Cox is also a force on the boards scoring 14.4 ppg to go along with 7.6 rpg.

In addition to the strong play from those three players, Miller said the Tigers play well on the offensive glass and score in transition.

Eastern junior guard Dewayne Wright Jr. said the Tigers have an aggressive style.

"I think with our defense and our pressure release we'll be OK," Wright said.

Wright said having the team stay together during Thanksgiving Break brought the team together and helped them form a bond.

"We learned there's still some things we need to work on," Wright said. "On defense, I think we made too many little mistakes, but its nothing we can't improve on. I think our offense really clicked. We showed we can score the ball when-



DAVE RIGBY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman forward Xavier Sanders jumps for the ball during the Nov. 19 game against Manchester College in Lantz Arena. Eastern starts Ohio Valley Conference play at 8 p.m. against Tennessee State at Lantz Arena.

ever we want, but it comes down to defense, which we have to concentrate on."

Freshman forward Xavier Sanders said the team sharpened up different

aspects of its game. He said the team performed well in practice, which should help them during the game.

For Wright and Sanders, this will be their first OVC Conference game

GAME 6: EASTERN VS TENNESSEE STATE

When: 8 p.m.

Where: Charleston

Location: Lantz Arena (5,300)

Series History: Tennessee State leads 22-16

Last Meeting: Tennessee State won 79-72 last season

Eastern (1-4)

Head Coach: Mike Miller (24-67 in fourth season)

Probable Starters

Pos.	Name	Yr.
C	O. Cisse	Jr.
F	B. Parrish	Sr.
G	R. Martin	Jr.
G	T. Marion	Jr.
G	T. Laser	So.

Key Reserves

Pos.	Name	Yr.
F	E. Suljic	Jr.
F	J. Hollowell	Fr.

Tennessee State (2-5)

Head Coach: Cy Alexander (63-95 in fifth season)

Probable Starters

Pos.	Name	Yr.
F	J. Houston	Sr.
F	D. Cox	So.
F	S. Evans	Sr.
G	G. Robinson	So.
G	P. Smith	Fr.

Key Reserves

Pos.	Name	Yr.
G	J. Crutcher	Jr.
G/F	E. Gaither	Sr.

and both said they are excited.

"I think this is a time you don't want to lose any games - this is conference play," Wright said. "I think we can go out here, protect home court, and we'll be alright."

Dan Cusack can be reached at 581-7944 or at dscusack@eiu.edu.

» Okafor

FROM PAGE 12

"As good as she was, it doesn't really affect how we play," Sallee said. "We can't put any stock into that. They've got kids that will step in and fill the holes and do a good job."

With Okafor out of the picture, the Lady Tigers have to replace one of their top offensive and defensive producers the past three seasons. Some of that responsibility will fall on senior guard Kendra Appling.

Appling, who led the Lady Tigers in scoring last season and is doing so again this year, is scoring 16.3 ppg while shooting .375 from the field and .324 from behind the arc.

Sallee said Tennessee State would be the "Kendra Appling show." He said there would be no question that Appling would be the Lady Tigers' go-to player.

"She was so doggone good with Okafor out there," Sallee said. "It's scary if she can do better than that. She's definitely somebody that we'll pay a lot of attention the next few days getting ready for them."

Wells said she thought Appling had put some pressure on herself to take charge even more now that Okafor is out the entire season. She said she has told her team to play as if Appling had not changed a single aspect of her game as to not put extra pressure on her.

"We know that Kendra is going

to carry that personal load herself," Wells said. "Certainly Kendra is stepping up for us. She's being more of a vocal leader than she has in the past. She's playing not only for herself, but she's playing for (Okafor) as well."

The Panthers are also preparing to start OVC play. Sallee said he thought his team was geared up to start league games.

"We feel good about where we are and how we've been playing," Sallee said. "We're eager to get out there against our conference and show what we've done in the pre-conference is for real. It's just another measuring stick for us."

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eiu.edu.

GAME 8: EASTERN VS TENNESSEE STATE

When: 5:30 p.m.

Where: Charleston

Location: Lantz Arena (5,300)

Series History: Eastern leads 16-10

Last Meeting: Eastern won 65-51 last season

Eastern (4-3)

Head Coach: Brady Sallee (53-71 in fifth season)

Probable Starters

Pos.	Name	Yr.
F	R. Galligan	Sr.
F	L. Kluempers	Sr.
G	D. Sims	R-Jr.
G	E. Canale	Sr.
G	M. Edwards	Sr.

Key Reserves

Pos.	Name	Yr.
F	M. Kloak	Jr.
G	A. Thomas	Jr.

Tennessee State (2-4)

Head Coach: Tracee Wells (33-87 in fifth season)

Probable Starters

Pos.	Name	Yr.
F	T. Jackson	Sr.
F	C. Cromartie	Jr.
G	N. Rumph	Sr.
G	K. Appling	Sr.
G	L. Pierce	Jr.

Key Reserves

Pos.	Name	Yr.
G	M. Stafford	So.
G	C. Hicks	Sr.

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COLLIN WHITCHURCH

Conference win will provide momentum

Facing a 2-4 Tennessee State team seems of minimal importance considering the teams the Eastern women's basketball team has faced thus far in the 2008 season.

Hard fought road games against the likes of Illinois, Bradley and Cincinnati, as well as home games against Miami (Ohio) and Southern Methodist — both NCAA Tournament qualifiers from a year ago — seem much bigger compared to facing a Lady Tigers' squad that finished 13-17 a year ago.

But in reality, tonight's game is much bigger than any other game to date simply because it is the start of Ohio Valley Conference play.

A win on Thursday is huge for the Panthers for the obvious reasons.

Winning conference games are always big because the ultimate goal is to win the OVC and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

But it's big for one other reason as well.

Momentum.

Momentum can go a long way in sports, specifically in basketball where teams feed off of home crowds and game-to-game stretches of success.

It happened last year when, after starting off the season with a 1-7 record.

The Panthers began OVC play with a 66-64 victory against Tennessee Tech.

That victory was the second game of a six-game win streak for Eastern, and the Panthers went on to win 10 of their next 12 games after beating the Golden Eagles.

This year the Panthers did not start out quite as poorly as they did a year ago.

>> SEE WHITCHURCH, PAGE 9

STORY LABEL | EASTERN VS. TENNESSEE TECH

Okafor out for Lady Tigers

Panthers' opponent will be weaker in the post

By **SCOTT RICHEY**
Sports Editor

Obiageli Okafor was Tennessee State's primary threat in the post during the Tigers' run to the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament last season. She was fifth in the league in scoring (16.9 points per game) and led the conference in offensive rebounds with 4.6 per game.

Okafor averaged 14.7 points and 8.7 rebounds in three games against Eastern last season including a 16-point, eight-rebound performance in the first round of the OVC Tournament.

But the Rolla, Mo., native will not be on the floor when the Panthers host the Lady Tigers at 5:30 today at Lantz Arena to start league play.

Okafor's senior season for Tennessee State ended before it even began as she tore the Achilles tendon in her left ankle during preseason practice. She recently underwent surgery on her ankle and will miss the entire 2008-09 season.

Tennessee State head coach Tracee Wells said Okafor's injury has created the need and opportunity for other players to step up and contribute. She said junior guard Nikki Rumph and junior center Chelsea Cromartie have played well in the Lady Tigers' early games this season.

Cromartie got her first career double-double with a 10-point, 13-rebound performance in Tennessee State's 63-57 loss to Morgan State on Nov. 22.

"People who had not been asked to play big minutes have been stepping in and trying to fill some big shoes," Wells said. "We're just working everyday at using an entire team effort to win our games."

Eastern head coach Brady Sallee said his game plan against Tennessee State would not change even with Okafor on the sideline instead of on the court.

>> SEE OKAFOR, PAGE 11



KARLA BROWNING | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Senior Forward Rachel Galligan shoots for the basket during the Panther exhibition opener in Lantz Arena on Nov. 1.

FOOTBALL | SPOTLIGHT

Rucker signed by New York Giants

STAFF REPORT

Micah Rucker waited more than two months for another chance in the NFL.

The former Eastern wide receiver got that chance when he was signed by the New York Giants Wednesday morning.

Rucker will be placed on the defending Super Bowl champions' practice squad.

The Giants had a practice squad spot open to sign Rucker after they promoted defensive tackle Leger Douzable to the active roster.

Wide receiver Plaxico Burress was removed from the Giants' active roster after he was placed on the reserve/non-football injury list following a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his leg.

This prompted Douzable's promotion.



FILE PHOTO
Former Eastern wide receiver Micah Rucker catches a pass during the Family Weekend game against Jacksonville State on Oct. 10, 2007, in O'Brien Stadium. Rucker, who was recently released from playing for the Kansas City Chiefs, just signed to play for the New York Giants.

MEN'S SOCCER | SPOTLIGHT

Marrow drive tomorrow at Rec

Brad Earl organized event to help friend

By **SCOTT RICHEY**
Sports Editor

Eastern men's soccer graduate assistant Brad Earl has spent the past two summers training with Major League Soccer's Real Salt Lake in Salt Lake City.

This season, while he trained and ultimately played for Real Salt Lake reserve corps, Earl became close friends with Real Salt Lake midfielder Andy Williams and his wife Marcia.

Marcia Williams was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia on July 3, and her condition requires treatment of a bone marrow transplant.

Earl is hosting a marrow drive today at Eastern's Campus Rec Center from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"I've teamed up with an organization called DKMS," Earl said.

DKMS America is the United States branch of Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei, which is the main branch of the organization founded in Germany in 1991. DKMS is the world's largest marrow donor center with more than 1.7 million registered donors.

Earl said he got to know the Williams family through Jamie Watson, a mutual friend and former Real Salt Lake forward. Earl and Watson both went to Coppell High School in Coppell, Texas.

Earl said Watson and Andy Williams were roommates on road trips, and through Watson he became close with Andy and Marcia Williams.

Real Salt Lake is hosting a marrow drive for Marcia Williams on Dec. 13 at Rio Tinto Stadium in Salt Lake City, and Earl said Watson is hosting another drive later in Dallas because he now lives in that area as a member of MLS' FC Dallas.

"She still has hope out there after tomorrow," Earl said. "The Williams' have done a lot for me. Ultimately you've got to be optimistic and hope you can find a match."

Scott Richey can be reached at 581-7944 or at srrichey@eu.edu.

MARCIA WILLIAMS' STORY

"On July 3, 2008, we received the terrible news that it was leukemia. My world stopped, I wanted so very badly for it not to be true. I have since learned that my only chance to survive is a bone marrow transplant. With all the love, help and support we have received, I am still desperately in need of a bone marrow transplant. I am relying on a stranger to save my life. I am asking you, PLEASE, please think about the lives you could save, my life, among many others, moms, dads, babies can be saved if you sign up and become a marrow donor."

- Taken from dkmsamericas.org

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Today vs. Tennessee Tech |
5:30 p.m. - Lantz Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tonight vs. Tennessee Tech |
8 p.m. - Lantz Arena

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday vs. Austin Peay |
3 p.m. - Lantz Arena

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday vs. Austin Peay |
7 p.m. - Lantz Arena